

**Northern Lights Library Network  
Governing Board Meeting  
December 14, 2019  
Online via Zoom  
and  
Minnesota State University Moorhead  
Livingston Lord Library  
Faculty Development Center  
Conference Room 125  
1104 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Moorhead, Minnesota 56563**

Present: Kathy Enger, Nanette Albright, Glenn Heinecke, Kevin Baggett, Sheri Levasseur  
via Zoom: Dawn Dailey, Reed Olson

1. Call to Order. 10:00 A.M.
2. Approve Agenda.
  - a. Reed, Glenn MCU
3. Approve Minutes from the October 19, 2019, NLLN Governing Board meeting.
  - a. Dawn, Kevin MCU
4. Approve financial reports from October 2019 and November 2019.
  - a. Right on track at 40% spent.
  - b. Rent checks for the next couple of months are made out and deducted from statement already but checks have not been sent yet.
  - c. There is a small amount left to pay for the accounting audit, which is nearly complete.
  - d. Note that line item 6116 on the Income Statement Budget vs. Actual YTD states it is for the bookmobile but it is actually \$5,000 from reserves for each system.
  - e. Line item 6205 has increased.
  - f. Motion: Sheri, Glenn MCU
5. Review and approve Budget.
  - a. State funding, calculated by a formula and adjusted each year, came to approximately \$100 less than last year for a total of \$2,183,390. This budget adjustment was approved by the board in October.
  - b. The budget also now reflects the \$5,000 going to each library system.
  - c. \$1,000 also allocated to contribute to the Minnesota multitype systems strategic plan.
  - d. \$15,000 taken from reserves this year, and \$15,000 last year. The \$15,000 this year allots \$5,000 to each system and \$5,000 for educational support.
  - e. Motion: Dawn, Reed MCU

6. Old Business.

- a. Library services at White Earth.
  - i. Nanette described the budget cut phenomenon happening in school libraries in our region. When certified librarians retire, they are replaced by a para or the library is closed altogether. The new phenomenon is that schools that closed their libraries are seeing reading scores fall and they are reopening their libraries. White Earth reopened their library on November 21st and checked out one book to every student.
  - ii. They also have an annual book drive, to which NLLN donated books as well as a quilt and two Kindle Fires.
- b. New Rivers Literary Press distribution of *You May Have the Suitcase Now* by Beaudelaine Pierre to libraries in the NLLN region.
  - i. Kathy wrote a letter of support and New Rivers Press obtained funding from the Lakes Region Arts Center to distribute a copy to libraries in our region. They will be available soon.
- c. Work at Walker High School library.
  - i. Similar to White Earth's story, Walker closed their high school library after Adell Bridgeford retired from her 37 year career there. Adell has been working to bring books to circulate through high school English classes, with grant support from Sourcewell. Kathy is going up to help on Tuesday, December 17th.

7. New Business.

- a. Presentation at the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership conference, January 17, "Leading Students to the Future with Literacy Skills They Need".
  - i. Glenn and Kathy did research and will present it at this conference. An abstract and model of their research can be found in the Director's Report, pages 3-4. The research is a qualitative grounded theory study.
  - ii. There are skills that only certified librarians or media specialists can provide to students, such as: digital literacy skills (how to make passwords, how to discern truth on the internet, how to escape toxic social media environments), library and information science skills (the Dewey Decimal System, how to use dictionaries and encyclopedic sources), and reading skills (a librarian is a literal representation of reading to students and a go-to person when they are looking for material). As students work on these literacy skills, they are also analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating, which is the highest level of thinking according to Bloom's taxonomy.
  - iii. Glenn and Reed also commented on how the Minnesota House of Representatives has a few people working on legislation discussing certified librarians/media specialists in all Minnesota schools. But because

it is a side project and libraries are not a main focus of the House, it is moving very slowly.

- b. The next “Better Together” workshop will be June 11, 2020.
  - i. It will be in Fergus Falls, the schedule is pretty much complete, it is scheduled for a week later than normal because of the abnormal winter last year and people’s struggles to make it, and it is open to public librarians, academic librarians, school librarians/media specialists, library paras, and teachers.
- c. “Youth Voice & Choice” YALSA training, June 5, 2020.
  - i. Funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences and a few other organizations. It is a train-the-trainers event for people who work with youth aged 8-18. Kathy will put the flier on the listserv and board members are encouraged to distribute the information to anyone the event is targeting.
- d. “Becoming an Author” writing seminar July 25, 2020.
  - i. The Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project is a little known but fantastic resource. Berkley-certified writing coach Gina Drellack is hosting a day-long, free workshop on writing and publishing.
  - ii. Two people are already signed up for each of the three workshops discussed in b., c., and d.
- e. Diversity and Inclusion Workshop for Library Personnel in the Region, April 1, 2020.
  - i. A Tri-College event in Fargo/Moorhead. This year it is at MSUM.
  - ii. It is a national event open to all library personnel. Spots are limited. More information to follow.
- f. Roseau Media Specialist, Glenn Heinecke, consulted with the Warroad School library.
  - i. He spent over two hours talking about how to use Destiny, how to weed a collection, and other library functions. They said it was very helpful.
  - ii. Glenn consults with schools all over the region. This summer he will be working with Ada School.
- g. \$5,000 was sent to Lake Agassiz Regional Library system and \$5,000 was sent to Northwest Regional system to support their Overdrive collection for children and young adults.
  - i. Discussed above (4.d. and 5.d.)
- h. Interviews on Lakeland PBS.
  - i. Kathy Enger’s: <https://lptv.org/lakeland-currents-the-role-of-libraries-in-the-21st-century/>
  - ii. Reed Olson’s: <https://lptv.org/lakeland-currents-housing-and-homelessness-in-the-bemidji-area/>

- iii. Go to these links to see Kathy discuss the continued relevance of libraries and Reed tackle Bemidji's homeless problem.
- i. Reports from the region.
  - i. Nanette: Nanette received an NLLN grant to attend the "What's New in Young Adult Literature" seminar. She also talked with another para from Warroad about how helpful the seminar was and how they wish events like that were more inclusive of non-certified library staff, or events that teach them how to look for grants and other funding and how to use software. Many schools across the region are also having paras teach classes, which is not legal under Minnesota statute. Thus, these staff need immediate help.
    - 1. Sheri cautions that any training needs to be a temporary fix but that certified professionals are the only ones that can really do that job. There should be a focus on education administrators on what a certified librarian/media specialist does and why a para cannot do that job.
    - 2. Kathy suggests creating a subcommittee to address this issue. The committee includes Glenn, Sheri, and Nanette.
  - ii. Sheri: Her 5th graders are planning the school's first Battle of the Books using Teacher's Choice Award books. The nine-student planning group did their first mock-battle this week to show the rest of the grade what it will be like. If it is successful, perhaps it will spread through the school or even the region and there could be competitions between the schools in the region. And her 6th graders are planning an overnight escape room event in the library. These games get kids excited about reading and about the library's services.
  - iii. Kevin: Concordia is interviewing for a new archivist position this week.
  - iv. Glenn: Nothing not already mentioned.
  - v. Reed: Kitchi is creating a five-year strategic plan for the first time in several years. The overhaul of strategy is partly due to the new director. It is tedious but very important.
  - vi. Dawn: no longer on the phone.
- 8. Motion to adjourn: Reed, Kevin      MCU